

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 140856  
ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, TS

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS IN TUNISIA

REF: TUNIS 4187

1. WE ARE REPEATING FOR YOUR INFO PERTINENT PARAGRAPH CONCERNING TUNISIA IN ARTICLE IN JUNE ISSUE OF "FOREIGN SERVICE JOURNAL." THE ARTICLE, "THE DOGGEDNESS OF CONSCIENCE," IS AUTHORED BY A FORMER USIA EMPLOYEE, ROBERT EHRMAN. MUCH OF THE ARTICLE DRAWS FROM AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SOURCES. QUOTE: OTHER COUNTRIES, WITH SOME 500 AMNESTY CASES OF TORTURE OR POTENTIAL TORTURE, INCLUDED TUNISIA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, IRAQ, IRAN, PAKISTAN, COLOMBIA, SPAIN, EL SALVADOR, SOUTH AFRICA, TAIWAN, SOVIET UNION, NICARAGUA, INDIA, BOLIVIA, HAITI AND PARAGUAY.

AI REGULARLY SENDS TO MEMBERS ACTIVE IN UA CAMPAIGNS UPDATED REPORTS ON UA ACTIONS. SOME PERTINENT EXTRACTS:  
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ARGENTINA: "THE CHILDREN OF PLAYWRIGHT CARLOS CRESTE WERE RELEASED ON 14 JANUARY 1977."

EL SALVADOR: "TWO TEN-YEAR OLD BOYS, PEREZ AND MARTINEZ, WERE DETAINED 3 JANUARY 1977 FOR DISTRIBUTING 'SUBVERSIVE

PROPAGANDA.' AUTHORITIES ARE URGED TO GIVE INFORMATION ABOUT THE BOYS' PLACE OF DETENTION AND TO ENSURE THAT THEIR RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED. THERE IS CONCERN THAT THE BOYS MIGHT OFFICIALLY 'DISAPPEAR.'

TUNISIA: "NEJIB EL-EUCH WAS AMONG 20 STUDENTS IMPRISONED FOR THEIR POLITICAL BELIEFS WHO WERE AMNESTIED ON 14 OCTOBER 1976, THE 14TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EVACUATION OF THE FRENCH BASE AT BIZERTE. IT IS HOPED THAT NOW, AFTER HIS RELEASE, NEJIB EL-EUCH WILL BE ABLE TO RECOVER COMPLETELY. HIS HEALTH HAD SERIOUSLY DETERIORATED AS A RESULT OF TORTURE, AND IN EARLY 1976 HE WAS REPORTED TO BE IN A STATE OF NEAR-PERMANENT DELIRIUM." UNQUOTE.

2. REFTEL: DOES EMBASSY SEE ANY SIGNIFICANCE IN JUNE 9TH "LE TEMPS" ARTICLE, HEADLINED ON FRONT PAGE, REPORTING GISCARD D'ESTAING'S REMARKS THAT "THERE IS NO LIBERTY WITHOUT PLURALISM?" SINCE THIS APPEARED A DAY AFTER GOT BLOCKAGE OF "CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC LIBERTIES," ONE WONDERS IF THIS IS A BYZANTINE ROUTE OF EXPRESSION TO THE TUNISIAN COGNOSCENTI THAT WOULD AVOID GOT DISPLEASURE.

3. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES EMBASSY RECENT REPORTS IN TUNISIAN HUMAN RIGHTS AREA AND LOOKS FORWARD TO ANY FOLLOW-UP INFO AND ANY SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO PRESENT BEN SALAHIST'S TRIAL. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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